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AN UNMISTAKABLE DUTY.

The officials of the state government and the people of Oklahoma should unite without delay in carrying to a successful conclusion in the legislature a bill that will actually conserve the natural gas resources of this state. The time has arrived when any improper interference with the passage of such a measure should receive the rebuke it deserves.

The waste of natural gas in Oklahoma has grown to the magnitude of a high crime. No state is richer than Oklahoma in natural gas, yet this gas has not been utilized for industrial purposes. It is estimated that in the Cushing field alone the daily waste of natural gas is equivalent to four hundred standard barrels of oil. Lack of conservation has robbed Oklahoma of enormous revenues from the sale of natural gas, and prevented the establishment of industries that would have greatly enriched the state. Capital will not undertake the building of pipe lines nor the erection of factories dependent upon natural gas if there is an uncertainty about the permanency of the gas supply.

The oil producer is the chief enemy of natural gas conservation. Natural gas is a hindrance to his business and is of no value to him. He seeks to rid his oil wells of natural gas as quickly as possible, regardless of all questions of economic waste. He contributes to the maintenance of a legislative lobby to prevent the enactment of laws that would compel oil producers to conserve the gas in their wells. He is engaged in that sort of thing at this time, and if he should be able to prevail upon the present assembly there will be no real legislation for the conservation of natural gas. The oil producer may hardly be blamed for this attitude. He is simply taking care of his own business. Just as the people should protect their business and the state's business.

The average citizen of Oklahoma is wholly ignorant of the vast amount of wealth that is vanishing through lack of gas conservation. The surface waste in single wells that have a daily flow of from ten to sixty million cubic feet is so great as to tax the imagination, yet this loss is nothing compared to what is actually taking place.

Experts in the natural gas business, acquainted with the situation in Oklahoma, declare without hesitation that as a commercial commodity Oklahoma's natural gas is worth to the state more than its crude petroleum, despite the fact that the 1914 output of crude oil was approximately one hundred million barrels. Briefly, this statement is based upon the showing that the oil industry benefits only a limited number of persons, the bulk of the earnings passing quickly to investors in outside states, while the conservation and development of the natural gas resources would build and feed industries inside Oklahoma.

Natural gas may be conserved by confining it to the stratum that produces it. This may be done in one or two ways, the preferable way, according to these experts, being that of the United States government, whereby the stratum is sealed with mud. According to the depth of the well, this cost of conservation may amount to as much as \$1,500, an expense that the oil producer naturally does not wish to incur, as he has no use for the gas.

If the only waste were at the mouth of the well, the situation would be bad enough. But this is the least of the loss. As the hydrostatic pressure decreases in wells from which the gas is permitted to escape, the bulk of the bulk of the gas supply is said to begin wandering into other strata and formations, migrating and disappearing beyond recovery.

This is what is happening to Oklahoma's natural gas. How much has been lost in this manner is beyond computation. Unless the remaining gas is saved and stored for future industrial purposes, in a few years the state deliberately will have thrown away enough fuel energy to supply an empire for a long period of years.

This failure of the people of Oklahoma to perform a public duty is attended by what experts declare may result in even greater disaster. It is suspected that this migrating gas in time will penetrate the bituminous coal measures, and if this should happen the greater portion of the rich coal fields of Oklahoma will become

unworkable, as the presence of this gas would expose the mines to the constant danger of terrific explosions. One of Oklahoma's worst mine explosions was attributed to the unexpected presence of natural gas.

This loss of both gas and coal might well be regarded as a public calamity. It should be easy for the members of the Oklahoma legislature to see their duty in this important matter. The oil producer is on the ground, harassed for the fight. His intention is to sidetrack any measure that will add to the cost of interference with his business. Oklahoma's natural gas is practically without organized defense. The oil producer undoubtedly has rights that should be protected. It should be possible to deal justly with both sides. The rights of all the people, however, are paramount to those of any individual.

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS.

Hate and the shedding of blood have so blinded the grasping nations in the European war that at times so sober men doubt the reality of civilization. In a recent issue of the London Times was printed the following letter from an officer in a Highland regiment, which should appeal strongly to every heart, Christian or Pagan.

You need not have killed us on Christmas Day. I have seldom spent a more entertaining one, despite the curious conditions. We were in the trenches, and the Germans began to make merry on Christmas Eve, about half past eight, and we met them. They sang songs (very well), and we answered by singing "Who were you with last night?" and of course "The Merry" (very badly). I was heartily at discovering some of our men actually had gone out, indeed, more with the idea of seeing the German trenches than anything else, they met halfway, and there ensued the giving of cigarettes and receiving of cigars, and they arranged (the private soldiers of one army and the private soldiers of the other) a 48 hours' armistice.

It was all most irregular, but the Peninsula and other wars will furnish many such examples; eventually both sides were induced to return to their respective trenches, but the one sang all night, and during my watch they played "Home, Sweet Home" and "God Save the King" at 2.30 a.m. It was rather wonderful; the night was clear, cold, and frosty, and across to our lines at this usually miserable hour of night came the sound of such tunes very well played, especially by a man with a violin, who is probably well known.

Christmas Day was very quiet, and our camp those Germans to wish us "A Happy Day"; we went out, told them we were at war with them, and that really they must play the game and pretend to fight; they went back, but again attempted to come towards us, so we fired over their heads, they fired a shot back to show they understood, and the rest of the day passed quietly in this part of the line. So there you are; all this talk of hate, all this fury at each other that has raged since the beginning of the war, quelled and stayed by the magic of Christmas.

Indeed, one German said, "But you are of the same religion as us, and to-day is the Day of Peace!" It is really a great triumph for the Church, at a great hope for future peace when two great nations, hating each other as few have seldom hated one side, seeing eternal hate and vengeance and setting their venom to music, should on Christmas Day, and for all that the world implies, lay down their arms, exchange smokes, and wish each other happiness! Next year, pray God, we will all be round the fire and at peace.

It has been the fortune of many of The Times' readers to have lived in Oklahoma since the days of the first settlement and to have known the pioneers, the men and women who endured with fortitude the hardships of their surroundings, and looked with courage upon the future. Time endears the memories and relations of those valiant years. With increasing frequency comes news of the death of those old friends, for example, as "Hooley" (L. B.) Bell of Vinita and George Orner of Woodward, one in the east and one in the west. There was a fine privilege. They saw the wilderness fade and change into fruitful fields, and heard the sounds of civilization break the silence of the plains. They lived and died where men look upon life with broad vision. Even now they are covered by the snows of yesterday, but "We have heard the chiming at midnight, Master, Shallow."

POPE'S PRAYER FOR PEACE

IS SEIZED BY PARIS POLICE. PARIS, Feb. 2.—Periodicals containing the text of Pope Benedict's prayer for peace, which he had directed should be read in all churches February 7 were seized Sunday by the police of the department of the Seine, according to the Figaro. The incident was soon settled, however, after explanations had been given the authorities by Cardinal Amette, archbishop of Paris and the embargo was withdrawn.

The motives for the seizure were not announced, but it is believed the Figaro says, that the government feared the expression of hope for an early peace might be misinterpreted by the public and have a depressing effect on opinion.

Should you want to see that cow or horse do so through a Times Want Ad. 3 lines, 6 times, 20 cents.

FROM OTHER NEWSPAPERS

Cannot Make Arguments Fit.

The democratic senators had a hard time agreeing on the details of the government ship purchase bill. In the senate the other day Mr. Simmons announced in reply to Mr. Root's warnings that the government had no intention of purchasing interned ships belonging to any of the powers now at war. But if we are not to buy the German steamers now laid up in our ports, and Great Britain and France decline to sell us ships which might be used in trade with the Central allies, where are we to get vessels? Italy does not want to part with hers, and even-carrying charges are now so high the owners of other neutral shipping hardly would be inclined to part with it except at a cost which would put the United States at a disadvantage in setting up a government-owned transportation industry. Yet fight on the heels of Mr. Simmons' statement that the government would buy no interned ships the only ones whose owners would save money by selling Mr. Walsh treated the senate to an elaborate argument in tended to prove that Great Britain was bound by British precedents, were the declaration of London ignored, to permit our taking over any available German lines. New York Tribune.

Put Navy in Order.

The United States navy needs many more big battle ships and it needs them now, as the false economy of the national legislature in recent years has tended toward crippling its efficiency. New submarines are needed, too, in large numbers. We should have battle cruisers of the type now so effective in other navies. There is no possible doubt that the sentiment of the country is strongly in favor of putting the navy in good order, that the people would rather have congress economize in the matter of new public buildings and the improvement of inland waterways than in slighting our means of defense. The naval appropriation bill contains no new provision which bears the slightest relation to a "year measure." New York Times.

Immigrants' Sons and Literary Test.

It is confidently asserted that Samuel Gompers has sufficient influence to pass the immigration bill, with its literacy test, over the veto of President Wilson, who in withholding from the measure his approval, favored the case of the Italian and Polish examples of W. H. Taft and Governor Cleveland. The votes by which this is to be accomplished are to come from 425 representatives and 96 senators. These men are drawn from every part of the country and their parentage includes men and women of every race, nationality and material situation. When the question of excluding illiterates is put before these congressmen survey for a moment the record of their ancestry and their family connections. New York Sun.

Jews' Sacrifice in War.

The most genuine sufferers of our time, the Jews are sadly enough likely to be as a race the greatest sufferers in the great war, with the least reason for suffering. For all their enormous importance in the development of our civilization, art, science and philosophy, as well as commerce and banking, they are often virtually aliens in the lands that exact of them a citizen's duties. The Jews are most thickly settled in Europe on the frontiers where the grimmest fighting of the war has been and is now in progress. In all the armies the Jews fight, pathetically slaying one another to serve governments that return them only oppression and even persecution. New York American.

War Diplomacy.

Signs all point to the probability of an extension of the European war area before the spring campaign shall have advanced very far. The foreign offices are not taking into their confidence the public as to negotiations of the last few months, but it is very certain that highly important alignments are being perfected. The winter's contest has been one of diplomacy quite as much as of arms. When the war's history is finally ready to be written with full knowledge it will almost certainly be found that greater things were accomplished in cabinet and council during the winter than on the fields of France, Belgium and Poland. New York Press.

Undesired Immigrants.

The grounds on which President Wilson vetoed the immigration bill are absolutely sound and in accord with the traditional policy of the republic. If such a measure had been in force during the last century this country would have lost many valuable citizens who rendered important service as legislators and on the battlefield—men compelled to leave their native lands because of their devotion to republican ideals. New York Herald.

SIDELIGHT ON WAR NEWS.

England, according to such data as obtainable, has suffered a greater loss in army officers than any of the belligerent nations. These are the latest figures: Killed, 1,206; wounded, 2,416; missing, 602; a grand total since the beginning of the war of 4,344.

Emperor William was 56 years old Jan. 27. Telegrams of congratulations were received from the emperor of Austria and the sultan of Turkey, but none came from the czar of Russia, the king of England, the king of Belgium or the president of France. Nothing like war to shatter the friendship of sovereigns.

Training of dogs intended to assist to the fighting zone as "dumb brothers and sisters of mercy" has become a favorite occupation of rich Russians. The dogs are being trained not only to search for the wounded on the deserted battlefields and to deliver bandage material and first aid medicaments, but also to warn them.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I hereby announce myself as candidate for Commissioner of Public Property, subject to the Republican primary.

R. E. BRADSHAW.
(Present Supt. of Streets.)

I hereby announce myself as candidate for Commissioner of Public Property of Oklahoma City, subject to the action of the Republican primary.

GEO. HESS

and revive them in case of unconsciousness.

A curious feature of the European war is the effect that the heavy cannonading by warships has had on the fish of the North sea. It is reported that great shoals of fish came up into the rivers and canals of Holland, leaping out of the water as they sometimes do on a summer day, and that there were swarms of fish in places where they had never been found before. It is thought that the cannonading disturbed the fish.

An extraordinary demand for shoes has been created by the war—80,000,000 pairs a year. The figures seem hardly credible, yet by some estimates about 20,000,000 men are more or less under arms—the figures would provide on the average four pairs of boots in the trenches, each pair costing \$4 or more. At the rate a war of three years would cost Europe nearly \$1,000,000,000 merely for footwear.

Permission of polygamy in Europe after the close of the war is foreseen as a possibility by Lieut. Gen. Nelson A. Miles. He thinks a plurality of wives may be necessary to make up for the great loss of men. "In some countries," said General Miles, "there will not remain enough men to rebuild the ruined homes. The destruction of humanity in this war is beyond anything heretofore dreamed of. After the Thirty Years' War, Germany permitted a plurality of wives, so great had been the loss of men in the country. It is not impossible that such conditions will follow this conflict, for the war is destroying men as never before."

It looks like bankruptcy for Europe. It is conservatively estimated that at the end of a year the powers at war will have spent \$70,000,000. In this sum are not included the economic losses of the countries, nor the damage done to property in Belgium from the destruction of property in the various military fronts. The loss to Belgium from the destruction of property is estimated at \$125,000,000, while the damages sustained by East Prussia are said to be roundly \$88,000,000. No reliable estimates of the property losses in Poland, Galicia, Slavonia, Serbia, Rumania, Alsace and eastern France have so far been obtainable, but the impression prevails that together this would be no less than \$1,400,000,000.

A few giant smokestacks where once stood factories that employed thousands of well paid hands. A solitary sentinel of a chimney to mark the site of a comfortable home, a heap of stones, all that remains of a prosperous farm—everywhere ruin, wreckage and desolation. In the streets of yet unwarped towns and cities, the remnants of a self-supporting, self-respecting and contented people, old men fighting feebly for a crust, wounded or broken workers who would gladly work all day for a turnip, mothers trying vainly to feed their famished babies at their faded breasts, children who have cried themselves mute with fear and hunger—this is Belgium, the Gethsemane of the modern world.

OUR NATURAL NEIGHBORS.

John Golob, in "The Searchlight": Say, brothers, are you so mean that you regard a bird as an enemy, and a chipmunk as a robber to be killed? Why is that we seem to hate all children of nature, and look upon them as enemies?

Apparently, if we had our way, we would be the sole, lonesome denizens of the deserts of this earth, without song birds, chirps of squirrel, or whistle of Bob White.

Isn't it strange that the first impulse of most children at sight of birds is to throw stones?

Why is it that we have the impulse to kill at sight everything that does not belong to civilized man?

Some day this earth may have no animal life save that of man and domestic animals. Wouldn't that be a beautiful world?

What denotes the highest civilization of man? To be decent and square, not only to other men, but to animals—those in his service as well as those inhabiting the woods and fields.

What a wonderful variety of interesting neighbors our wild creatures would be if we should take them to our hearts!

POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The fight between the Sullivan and Harrison factions of the Democratic party in Chicago is something fierce. The Sullivanites have selected one Robert M. Sweitzer as their candidate for the majority nomination and he is a man. In the first place he is a traveling man of the old-fashioned jolly "drummer" type and he is a "thief" belonging to no less than fourteen different societies and clubs and he is a descendant from the "plum peep." Harrison has been Chicago's mayor for six terms but for the seventh nomination he faces the fight of his life.

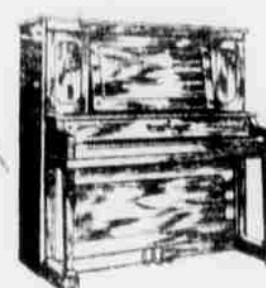
Advices from Washington are to the effect that the administration has taken up in earnest the question of how the government's expenses shall be brought within its income during the coming fiscal year. It is high time. Retrenchment and reform in governmental expenditures is a pledge of the Democratic party that has not yet been redeemed. Estimates of expenditures for the year far exceed the most extravagant hopes for revenues, and administration leaders are agreed that something must be done to prevent the deficit they are facing.

By a vote of 21 to 17 the Kansas senate passed the bill to abolish the primary petition which created such a nuisance in Kansas politics last year. Under the bill adopted by the senate the aspirant to party nomination shall obtain his place on the ticket for state, county, city or township office by filing a fee of 1 per cent of the salary of the office for one year. The fees shall be paid to the secretary of state, county, city or township clerk, according to whether the office in question is a state or local one.

The year just begun is to see a strong effort by the woman suffragists to break into the east. Their conquests have been confined to the west; but this year the whole battle will be in the stronghold of conservatism, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts are to be the fighting ground.



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WOULD CENSOR CRIME MOVIES

Bill Now Pending in House Would Prohibit Picturing of Crimes and Stop Fortune Tellers Short.

A severe censorship is placed on moving picture houses and a blow struck at fortune tellers in two measures which were adopted by the house committee of the whole late Monday afternoon. The ban is placed on a wide range of "movie" subjects in a provision of the bill which prohibits the exhibition of any act the commission of which would be a violation of law.

The bill prohibits any moving picture to be shown which features a bank robbery, train robbery, nude forms, suggestive poses, any act the commission of which would be a violation of the law, any obscene, indecent, licentious or immoral subject.

A section which revenue in this state prohibits the manufacture of any moving picture films representing or depicting any act of depredation committed within the state of Oklahoma or any other state or the exploitation of any one who has been convicted of a crime in this or in any other state.

The punishment for the first violation of the act is a fine of from \$25 to \$100. The penalty for a second violation is a fine of from \$100 to \$500 and imprisonment from thirty days to six months, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court. For the third offense the place of business shall be closed by injunction as a nuisance and the moving picture machinery and appliances confiscated and sold by the sheriff, the proceeds applied to the school fund of the county, and in addition the owner shall be prohibited from thereafter engaging in the moving picture business in Oklahoma.

Should any moving picture be shown which in the opinion of the county attorney, mayor or chief of police is a violation of the law, it is the duty of such official to notify the manager of the moving picture show, and in case of refusal to comply with the law it is made the duty of the county attorney to begin prosecution.

The authors of the moving picture bill are Representatives Harolds of Pontotoc, Baruch of Grady and Nesbitt of Pittsburg.

directly or to receive any gift, donation or subscription by any means whatsoever for the same." A fine of from \$50 to \$500 and imprisonment from thirty days to six months may be imposed for violations of the act.

DON'T NEED ANY PULL

Secretary Smith of School Land Department Wants to Find Those Who Are Circulating False Reports.

It has come to the attention of Secretary G. A. Smith of the school land office that certain persons in the state are representing to prospective borrowers of school land money that it requires a pull first, then a fee, to secure loans. The impression is created that in some instances fees have been collected.

Secretary Smith says that the department would very much like to get hold of these individuals, and he promises that an example of just one will be sufficient for any one who may in the future have any such ambition. The names of one or two of these fellows have been turned into the commission with good evidence to follow it up and it is possible that the example will be forthcoming shortly.

WARREN QUITS PLACE

Reported That A. W. Duff Will Also Resign from State Board of Education in a Short Time.

J. F. Warren, one member of the state board of education, has resigned and it is possible another, A. W. Duff, formerly of Mangum, but of St. Louis, will soon send in his resignation.

It is likely that Governor Williams will have appointments to fill the vacancies before the board holds its next meeting in March.

The resignation of Mr. Warren, it is understood, has been in the hands of the governor several days. That of Mr. Duff has not been sent in yet, but according to R. H. Rowsey, state superintendent, and chairman of the board, it will be, Mr. Warren was appointed by Governor Crute to fill the vacancy on the board caused by the resignation of Frank Wilcox. The appointment of W. E. Rowsey of Muskogee was also made at the same time. Neither of these names has gone before the senate for confirmation.

OKLAHOMA AGGIES MAKE HIGH SCORE AT SHOOT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Results of the third week of the inter-collegiate rifle shooting competition showed that Massachusetts Agricultural and Michigan Agricultural were evenly matched for the championship.

Among the scores made by class B colleges was Notre Dame 926 vs. Oklahoma Agricultural 943. Competition is between three classes, A, B and C.

WILSON DESIRES TWO WARSHIPS FOR THIS YEAR

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—President Wilson told Chairman Tillman of the senate naval committee he believed congress should provide for two battleships this year and that he disagreed with Mr. Tillman's contention none should be built this year, but that four should be constructed next year on lessons of the European war.

How Do You Have Your Washing Done?

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